

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2005. The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-18 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,944,276 to Nguyen et al. The Office Action objected to claims 6, 7, 13 and 32, stating that those claims would be allowable if the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph were overcome. The Office Action then allowed claims 19-24 and 33-37. Applicant appreciates the recognition of allowable subject matter. In response to this Office Action, Applicant has canceled claims 1-5, 14-18, 25 and 31 and have amended claims 6, 8-13, 26-30 and 32. Applicant has added new claims 38 and 39, corresponding to the two claims originally numbered as claim 34 (see discussion below).

Correction of Typographical Error:

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the specification as filed listed two claims numbered 34. In order to correct this typographical error, Applicant has canceled both of the originally listed claims 34 and has represented them as new claims 38 and 39. No substantive amendment to either of these claims has been made and, therefore, claims 38 and 39 are allowable for the reasons cited in the Office Action that claims 33-37 are allowable.

Rejection: 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The Office Action next indicates that claims 6, 7, 13 and 32 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was overcome. However, Applicant cannot locate any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 in the Office Action. Therefore, for the purposes of this Response, Applicant will assume that claims 6, 7, 13 and 32 were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims were incorporated directly into those claims. Therefore, in accordance with this assumption, Applicant has amended claims 6, 13 and 32 to incorporate all limitations of claim 1 (claims 6 and 13) and claims 25 and 31 (claim 32). Claim 7 is dependent upon amended claim 6 and, therefore, incorporates all limitations of the rejected base claims for the same reasons as claim 6.

Accordingly, assuming this objection is what was intended by the Office, the objection of claims 6, 7, 13 and 32 has been overcome. Applicant requests that this objection be removed and that these claims be allowed.

Rejection: 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

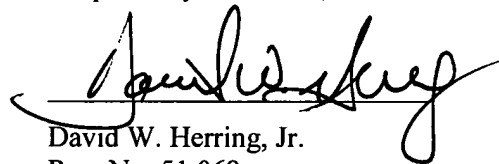
The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-18 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,944,276 to Nguyen et al. In response to this rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 1-5, 14-18, 25 and 31. Applicant reserves the right to present any canceled or withdrawn claims in a separate patent application or in the present application should such presentation be appropriate. Applicant has amended claims 8-12 to depend on claim 6 and has also amended claims 26-30 to depend on claim 32. Claims 6 and 32 are allowable for the reasons cited above. As a result, claims 8-12 and 26-30 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Therefore, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Conclusion:

Claims 1-5, 14-18, 25 and 31 were canceled. Claims 6, 13 and 32 were amended to incorporate all limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 8-12 and 26-30 have been amended to depend on claim 6 and claim 32, respectively. The two claims originally numbered as claim 34 were canceled and represented as new claims 38 and 39 in order to correct this error in numbering. Claims 19-24 and 33-37 were allowed.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 6, 7-13, 19-24, 26-30, 32-33 and 35-39 are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Herring, Jr.
Reg. No. 51,069
Attorney for Applicant
Tel.: 973-533-1616

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AT&T Corp.
Room 2A-207
One AT&T Way
Bedminster, NJ 07921